

# Loud and Clear

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## Digital Player and Cartridge News

We are so glad to hear from so many of you about how much you enjoy the digital players and cartridges. Many of you have discovered the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) database as an option to increase your reading choices. There are over 21,000 titles available in this database as compared to the 7,000 titles that might be on the shelves at Access Services. If you want to read a classic or a favorite author and it is available through BARD, you would not have to wait until a copy is on our library shelves. In addition, there are more mysteries, romances, best sellers and biographies for you to choose from; these titles are as close as your computer or your relative's or friend's computer. All that is needed is a computer with a high speed Internet connection, an email address and a

blank cartridge or a storage device called a 'flash' or 'thumb' drive. To find out more about registering for BARD, please call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or email us at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Green Cartridges in Gray Containers**

Sometimes the staff of Access Services is able to make a digital copy of the book that you requested. We will download the title onto a light green cartridge. These cartridges work in your digital machine just like the ones produced by the National Library Service. The staff at Access Services will place a label on the cartridge listing the title and author of the book;

**DB 22325**

**David Copperfield**

Charles Dickens

## **Multiple Books on a Single Cartridge**

A label with two or more Digital Book numbers listed such as

**DB**

**21601 22141 22997**

means that this cartridge contains more than one book. A customer would also hear the phrase 'two books' or 'three books' when the cartridge is inserted into the player. To navigate between the book titles, depress the play button until you hear the word "Bookshelf." Then by using the 'fast forward' and 'rewind' keys you can choose which book you want to listen to.

## **Digital Player Upgrade**

Beginning in mid-December, customers may hear an unexpected message when a book is inserted into their digital player. One of the advantages of having a digital system is that your machine can actually be upgraded through a process that has been loaded into the latest digital

book cartridges. In other words, book titles that will be shipped to Access Services in early December will contain a software revision that will upgrade your digital player.

According to a news release from NLS, 'When a book with the new software is inserted into a player that has not yet been upgraded, it will announce, "Updating your player's software; please do not power off your player or remove the cartridge from the player." There will be a series of beeps while the machine is updating. When the update is complete, the machine announces, "Software upgrade completed; stand by while your player is restarted."

If you hear this message, please DO NOT remove the cartridge while it is updating the player's software.

### **Did You Know**

Institutions that receive service from the Access Services branch of the Fairfax County Public Library can have digital talking book players to demonstrate the Talking Book Program to their residents and clients.

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## **Saturday Technology Training Sessions**

### **DC Public Library**

Every other Saturday (usually the first and third Saturdays of the month) the Adaptive Services Division of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D. C. conducts a Technology Training Session. The sessions begin at 1:00 p.m. and end about 4:00 p.m.

The Saturday Technology Training Session offers a variety of programs and generally includes guest presenters. Topics include accessibility issues with web design, tech talks, and discussions related to

seeking employment such as resume building. Librarian, Patrick Timony, serves as host.

Even though the meetings are held in room 215 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library there is a way that you can participate in the workshop via your telephone or on a computer at your own house. For further information about remote participation in the Saturday Technology Training Sessions or the upcoming agendas for the Saturday Technology Training Sessions please contact Patrick Timony at the Adaptive Services Division of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D. C. His email is [\*\*Patrick.timony@dc.gov\*\*](mailto:Patrick.timony@dc.gov). His telephone number is 202-727-1335.

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## **Kathleen Tozer: A Participant's Perspective**

Kathleen Tozer, one of the Friends of Access Services, participated in one of the Saturday Technology Training Sessions via telephone. She participated in one about “Apps” (applications) for mobile phones. She shares her comments here.

“The beauty of this particular seminar was that I did not even have to leave my home to participate. It was available via computer or over the phone. It was being tried for the first time and was very successful. It was almost like being there. Telephone participants could ask questions or provide input. Occasionally, there was a little difficulty moving around the microphone; but, they did a good job repeating questions or answers.

One of the most common buzz words being tossed around these days is ‘App’. One hears the word in everyday conversation, on TV or reads about them in newspapers and magazines. To those uninitiated, an App is short for the word application and refers to software that is used on mobile devices, particularly cell phones. The device can be pre-loaded when you purchase a mobile device or be downloaded on to it. There are literally many thousands of these available, with more appearing on a daily basis.

While it all sounded very fascinating, the question for me was, I wonder how accessible these things are for a blind person? The opportunity to participate in a seminar about the iPhone, where three knowledgeable people spoke about and demonstrated their personal experiences with using Apps, provided some answers, along with some insight as to what these things are all about...

...These were obviously tech savvy people giving this talk; but, they didn't lead you to believe that this is all a piece of cake. There is a definite learning curve involved and, for some of us, might be quite challenging. But, I was delighted with my new found knowledge. It allowed me to get a glimpse of what the rest of the world is talking about and to appreciate more of what the world of technology is bringing to everyone, including people with disabilities.

The first person specifically demonstrated the iPhone itself, how to make calls, contact lists, e-mail and note-taking.

The second person spoke about several GPS Apps, giving the names of specific ones, along with their differences. While these apps are designed for sighted users, the presenters felt that the ones they use are 90 to 95% accessible. These are among the more expensive Apps, costing somewhere around \$40.

One of the most popular GPS Apps is called Navigon. You can purchase an App for a city, area of the country or the entire country. With this you can put in an address and it will plot a course for you. Another app is called Ariadne. It calls out addresses and names of streets as you pass them, which could be helpful if riding a bus. A third is called Look Around which tells you where you are and points of interest around you; but, you can't find your way with it.

The third person spoke about a couple of fun Apps he uses. With one, called Biz Wiz, you take a picture of something and it goes out to a "web worker", which is a real live person or, to an automated "worker", which is not a live person, and it comes back with an answer. Is it always 100% accurate? No, but, it comes pretty close. He took a picture of his

shirt and asked the color. It came back light blue, which was correct. An App called Look Tell is a money identifier which was right on the money. (Sorry for the pun.)

In addition to talking about Apps, there were, also, some nuggets of useful technology information, such as blue tooth headphones and keyboards. “

NOTE: The session that I listened to on applications is still available over the phone. If you would like to hear it, follow these directions:

Call (641) 715-3413 then press pound. You will be prompted to enter the access code: 471929, then press pound. Then you will be asked to enter the reference number, which is 3, followed by pound. Make sure to hit the pound key after each number.”

Happy Apping!

Kathleen Tozer

Member of Friends of Access Services Library

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## **Enhance Your Library**

Please consider the Access Services branch as part of your charitable giving. Private donations are critically needed to maintain high-quality library services. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax deductible.

Checks may be sent to Access Services, made payable to the Fairfax Library Foundation with “for Access Services” specified in the memo line or cover letter. For more information, contact Access Services or call the foundation at 703-324-8300.

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## **Reading Roundup**

## **Part 2 Fiction Reading Suggestions From The Friends Of Access Services**

Please note that RC signifies that the item is only available on recorded cassette,

### **Missing Mark** by Julie Kramer **DB 71601**

Her boss wants her to follow a missing-fish lead, but Minneapolis investigative reporter Riley Spartz, from **Stalking Susan (DB 67775)**, thinks there must be a more interesting story behind the wedding-dress ad placed by a jilted bride who can't recognize faces. This title is available through FCPL as an e-audio book.

### **To Dance with Kings** by Rosalind Laker **RC 29017 ( DB in process)**

The destiny of Marguerite Dremont, born in the shadow of Versailles during the reign of Louis XIV, was shaped by one of Louis's musketeers, who witnessed her birth. Augustin Roussier's promise that he will return in seventeen years to court Marguerite becomes the driving force in her family's future.

### **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein **DB 66787**

Enzo, a mixed-breed dog, believes he will be reincarnated as a human. He stands by his master Denny Swift's side through Denny's race-car driving career, the birth of his daughter Zoë, the death of his wife Eve, and a bitter custody battle with Eve's parents. This title is available through the FCPL branches in Large Print, CD and e-book formats.

### **Nineteen Minutes** by Jodi Picoult **DB 64175**

Bullied teenager Peter Houghton takes multiple weapons to his New Hampshire high school and kills ten classmates--sparing the life of his former friend Josie Cormier. Josie's mother, Alex, a judge, has been assigned to Peter's case, while attorney Jordan McAfee defends him. This title is available through the FCPL branches in Large Print and CD formats.

### **Flood Tide** by Clive Cussler **DB 45276**

In the year 2000 Dirk Pitt of the National Underwater and Marine Agency is working with immigration officials to stop the smuggling of Chinese workers into the United States. Gangster Gin Shang has even built a port in Louisiana to unload the illegals. Pitt is also investigating a rumor of a shipwrecked Chinese vessel bearing a load of treasure. This title is available through FCPL branches in the CD format.

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## **October Events   Celebrating 80 years of Talking Books**

### **Transforming the Written Word into a Spoken Performance**

In cooperation with VIP (Vision Impaired Persons) of Reston, Access Services presented a public program on Friday, October 7, 2011 at the Reston Regional Library. **Janice Kuch**, AS Branch Manager, introduced the afternoon's speakers.

**Ken Plummer**, Outreach Manager for Access Services, followed with a brief description of the Home Delivery service and the Talking Book Program. He made all attendees ambassadors to help spread the word about these two services.

**David Lingeback**, the Executive Director of the OutaSight Foundation, entertained all of us with his anecdotes on how he became a Talking Book user and described his discovery that Talking Books could widen the world that his diminishing sight had dramatically narrowed.

**Laura Giannarelli**, professional actress, producer, and narrator of hundreds of Talking Books during her thirty-two year career, took attendees on a fascinating tour of the process that brings an author's written words to life in the NLS recording studio. She captivated the audience as she read from her most recent projects; Judi Dench's autobiography, *And Furthermore* and *Franklin and Eleanor: an Extraordinary Marriage* by Hazel Rowley. These books have not yet been assigned a catalog number but you won't want to miss them.



Other recently recorded titles narrated by Laura Giannarelli:

**Cold River** by Carla Neggers **DB 71636**

**Brava Valentine** by Adriana Trigiani **DB 71048**

**Little Bird of Heaven** by Joyce Carol Oates **DB 69789**

**WOOF! Writers on Dogs** by Lee Montgomery **DB 68414**

Ms. Giannarelli has also recorded the Mrs Murphy mysteries by Rita Mae Browne and several titles by Danielle Steel and Kay Hooper.

## **Windows Accessibility and BARD Training With George Mason University**

“Basic Computer & Windows Accessibility Features” was offered to Talking Book customers at George Mason University’s Technology Lab. Customers appreciated the opportunity to learn from the Virginia Assistive Technology System instructors about enhanced accessibility features in Windows 7 as well as how to download e-audio Talking Books from NLS’ online collection. VATS staff answered many questions and provided attendees with a tutorial CD to take home. We thank the Library Foundation for its financial support of this very successful workshop.

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## **Holiday Closings**

The Fairfax County Public Library will be closed for the following holidays:

Thanksgiving      Thursday, November 24, 2011

Friday, November 25, 2011

Christmas      Friday, December 23, 2011

Monday, December 26, 2011

MLK Holiday      Monday, January 18, 2012

## Staff News

Access Services had three staff members, **Yadira Fernandez**, **Carol Jones** and **Naseema Ahmed**, attend NLS training the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This training which took place at NLS headquarters in Washington DC, had participants from all over the country and was designed so people could directly learn from the staff members of NLS. The ladies particularly enjoyed the tour of the recording studio, the workshop on how books are selected for collection development and the fact that the service is available for American citizens who are in foreign countries.

In October, the Access Services branch liaisons met. At this annual meeting we re-connect with our colleagues in the 22 neighborhood branch libraries, we remind them of the program that Access Services offers and inform them of other programs that are available to the able-challenged community. The guest speakers this year were Suzanne Simpson, Rehab Engineer, and Carrie Clawson, Assistive Technology Specialist, both with the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

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## Web Corner: Two to explore

**<https://nlsbard.loc.gov>**. The place to go when you want to sign up for the BARD database. Click on 'bard application instructions', click 'Link to BARD applications for individuals', select 'Fairfax County Public Library, Access Services' and click Submit to get your password.

**<http://www.vdbvi.org/Links.htm>**. This page from the Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) is a list of links to other Websites divided into subsections such as 'Blindness and Visual Impairments', 'Deafblind', and 'Vision Loss and Driving'.

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## Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the *Loud & Clear* newsletter, please call Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389. You may also e-mail him at **[access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov)**.